

also need to continually update their skills. To that end, my Administration has invested nearly \$1 billion in new job training initiatives to ensure our workforce has the skills required of 21st century jobs. We have also nearly doubled support for Pell Grants to help millions of low-income Americans afford college tuition. The technological innovation that drives our global economic leadership depends on continued scientific discoveries and advancements, and I am pleased that the Congress authorized the doubling of basic research in key physical science and engineering agencies as I proposed in my American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI). I urge the Congress to appropriate these ACI funds promptly to help sustain our economy's long-term competitive position.

Many of these issues are discussed in the 2009 *Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers*. The Council has prepared this Report to help policymakers understand the economic conditions and issues that underlie my Administration's policy decisions. Free market policies have lifted millions of people out of poverty and given them the opportunity to build a more hopeful life. By continuing to trust the decisions of individuals and markets and pursuing pro-growth policies, Americans can be confident that the economy will emerge stronger than ever from its current challenges, with greater opportunity for prosperity and economic growth.

GEORGE W. BUSH. *The White House.*

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2. An act to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BAUCUS, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 275. An original bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 274. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an incentive to hire unemployed veterans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 275. An original bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Pro-

gram, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 276. A bill to establish a National Commission on Entitlement Solvency; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. REID, Mr. GREGG, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BAYH, and Ms. LANDRIEU)):

S. 277. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 278. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a tax credit for qualified donations of employee services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KERRY, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 279. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitations on the deduction of interest by financial institutions which hold tax-exempt bonds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 280. A bill to develop a program to acquire interests in land from eligible individuals within the Crow Reservation in the State of Montana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 281. A bill to promote labor force participation of older Americans, with the goals of increasing retirement security, reducing the projected shortage of experienced workers, maintaining future economic growth, and improving the Nation's fiscal outlook; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER:

S.J. Res. 6. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to United States citizenship; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. Res. 15. A resolution acknowledging the lifelong service of Griffin Boyette Bell, a legal icon, to the State of Georgia and to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 16. A resolution designating the week of February 2 through February 6, 2009, as "National School Counseling Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. Res. 17. A resolution recognizing and honoring Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger III, his co-pilot Jeffrey Skiles, the crewmembers of U.S. Airways Flight

1549, and the first responders, ferry operators and tug boat drivers of New York City, for their heroic and intuitive roles in the safe emergency landing of U.S. Airways Flight 1549; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 84

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 84, a bill to close the loophole that allowed the 9/11 hijackers to obtain credit cards from United States banks that financed their terrorist activities, to ensure that illegal immigrants cannot obtain credit cards to evade United States immigration laws, and for other purposes.

S. 95

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 95, a bill to prohibit appropriated funds from being used in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 276. A bill to establish a National Commission on Entitlement Solvency; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself and Senator CORNYN to introduce legislation that will address one of the most serious problems facing our Nation—the long-term health of Social Security and Medicare.

Today we propose a bipartisan, independent and permanent commission to return these essential programs to solid financial footing for generations to come.

Our legislation mandates the periodic, comprehensive review of Social Security and Medicare to ensure their present and future solvency.

By a year from the date of enactment, it requires the Commission to devise and recommend to Congress and the President a benefit and revenue structure that allows Social Security and Medicare to become, once again, stable and effective over the long-term.

The problem we face is astronomical. President-elect Barack Obama is well aware of this, and said so on the front page of today's Washington Post.

He recognizes the growing threat this problem represents to the long-term health of our economy, and to the American people. So I look forward to working with him to find ways to ensure the long-term health of these great American institutions.

He recognizes, as Senator CORNYN and I do, that inaction is dangerous.

The Congressional Budget Office announced last week that the fiscal year 2009 deficit is projected to reach \$1.2 trillion, a new record.

The three largest entitlement programs, Social Security, Medicare, and